

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103684

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB

SUBJECT: HUEBNER CASE

REF: A) BONN 7509; B) STATE 96906

1. THE DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT THE LONGER THE ALLIES
DELAY ACTION ON THE HUEBNER CASE THE MORE APPARENT OUR
DIFFERENCES AND OUR INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS
CASE WILL BECOME.WE BELIEVE,HOWEVER, THAT IF WE
DO WHAT WE CAN AND SHOULD, THAT IS MAKE A DEMARCHE
TO THE SOVIETS, AND THEN INFORM THE PRESS OF OUR
POSITION AND THE ACTION WE HAVE TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF
IT, THE SOONER THE ISSUE WILL SUBSIDE. WE DO NOT
CONSIDER THAT THE PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT (PARAGRAPH 3
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OF REF A) WILL SATISFY THE PRESS OR THE PUBLIC AND
BELIEVE THAT IT WILL LEAVE AN IMPRESSION THAT ALLIED
RELUCTANCE EXTENDS TO REMINDING THE SOVIETS OF ASIC
ALLIED POSITIONS. US REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD AGAIN
PROPOSE THAT THE STATEMENT EXPLICITLY STATE THAT THE
ALLIES HAVE AGAIN MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS THE
LONG-STANDING ALLIED POSITION THAT DEMILITARIZATION

APPLIES TO ALL OF BERLIN.

2. UNLESS IT WOULD CAUSE GRAVE PROBLEMS, WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE "DEFENSIVE LINE" REPLY TO DIRECT QUESTIONS ON HUEBNER PARAPHRASE RATHER THAN RESTATE THE 30-YEAR-OLD STATEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "BECAUSE OF SOVIET OBSTRUCTION FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, THE WESTERN ALLIES ARE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR DECISIONS ONLY IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN."

3. THE TEXT OF THE DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS IS APPROVED AS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF A. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE NEED APOLOGIZE FOR RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE SOVIETS (PARAGRAPH 6A OF REF A) SINCE IT DIRECTLY INVOLVES A BASIC ALLIED LEGAL POSITION, HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF EXTENSIVE PRESS COMMENTARY, AND HAS BEEN DISCUSSED PUBLICLY AT SOME LENGTH BY THE LEADERS OF THE BERLIN GOVERNMENT, GDR OFFICIALS, AND AT LEAST ONE FRG MINISTER.

4. THE METHOD FOR USING THE STATEMENTS SUGGESTED IN REF A IS APPROVED.

5. IF, AFTER RAISING THE ABOVE, IT APPEARS THAT FURTHER PROTRACTED AND FRUITLESS DEBATE ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT WILL TAKE PLACE, WE WILL RECONSIDER THE AD REF TEXTS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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